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consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, amino protecting groups, reporter ligands, intercalators, chelators, peptides, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, steroids, oligonucleotides and soluble and non-soluble polymers. -

REMARKS

Claims 12-19 and 23-25 are pending in this application.

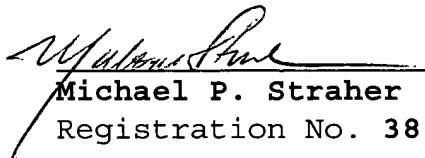
Claims 12-19 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. The foregoing amendment correcting an apparent clerical error in the preamble of claim 22 (now claim 25) is believed to render this rejection moot.

Claims 12-17 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, as being unpatentable over the alleged disclosure of peptide nucleic acids having linkages IIc and IID at column 7 of U.S. Patent No. 5,705,333 ("the Shah patent"), taken in view of other references. Applicants traverse this rejection, in view of their claim of priority from Application Serial No. 08/054,363, as the Shah patent was filed after the April 26, 1993, filing date of Application Serial No. 08/054,363 and, thus, does not constitute prior art under § 102(e). (see, e.g., Application Serial No. 08/054,363 at page 6).

It is believed all of the claims presently before the Examiner patentably define the invention over the prior art and

are otherwise in condition for ready allowance. An early Office Action to that effect is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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